

Project Snapshot

Official Recognition of the Community Protected Areas is a Sustainable Protection of Forest and Biodiversity

The USAID Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project along with WWF-Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment support further protection of the three new Community Protected Areas (CPAs) inside the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS).



280 people (of 80 female) attended the CPA signing ceremony on 15th January 2016 in Chiklob village, Soksan commune, Koh Nhek district, in Mondulkiri province.



Representatives from the Ministry of Environment and ADB representative were at the CPA signing ceremony in Mondulkiri.

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Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) is an expansive forest landscape, which provides vital resources and habitat to 18 Endangered and Critically endangered species in the region. PPWS is also one of the largest areas of intact forest left within Southeast Asia and as such needs to be protected against the constant threat of illegal logging, wildlife poaching and exhaustion of natural resources.

With the support from the USAID Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project (SFB) implemented by Winrock International in partnership with WWF-Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment, facilitated a recent official signing of three new Community Protected Areas (CPAs) inside the PPWS including CPA Chiklob Phnom Chung Kdey Dangkem, CPA Srae Y Nom Pom and CPA Putung Puhung Nam Hang. The recognition of these biodiverse areas is a vital milestone for preservation of both wildlife and natural resources, and for sustainable forest management and protection.

“We are very proud having this official signing to protect our natural resources. The signing highlights an importance of the community forest to be conserved and for a long-term management of our forest and biodiversity for the next generation,” said Mr. Ngev Khim, Chiklob Community Protected Area Leader.

“The establishment of these CPAs is crucial to officially recognize these areas as protected and ensure the successful conservation and sustainable livelihoods of local communities who rely on the forest for their incomes,” said His Excellency Yem Kim Sean, Secretary of State from the Ministry of Environment.

The Eastern Plains Landscape Project, under which these CPAs will fall, is a joint venture between USAID SFB, WWF-Cambodia, and the Biodiversity Corridor Conservation Project (BCCP/ADB), and aims to conserve and protect the areas within the Eastern Plains Landscape (EPL), in Mondulkiri Province. Since 2012, this joint collaboration has an ultimate goal of establishing 8 CPAs within the PPWS in which two CPAs were established so far.

“Now in 2016, most of the CPAs are complete to step 7 of the CPA guidelines and these efforts are strongly supported by the General Department of Administration for Nature, Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) – part of the Ministry of Environment,” said Mr. Khorn Sophoeun, Community Engagement Team Senior Officer from WWF-Cambodia.